

Senate Resolution 1086

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Williams of the 19th and Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Professor Bill Thomas; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Professor Bill Thomas has served since 1986 as the director of the Georgia
3 Legislative Intern program that has provided college students from the participating colleges
4 and universities a valuable experience in the legislative process; and

5 WHEREAS, after first serving in the U. S. Navy and earning his Ph.D. at the University of
6 Arizona, he joined the political science faculty at Georgia State University in 1971, where
7 he has advised countless students and taught courses in American politics and public law and
8 been very active in the university's honors and pre-law programs; and

9 WHEREAS, he became associated with the Georgia Legislative Intern program in 1982 as
10 the coordinator for Georgia State University students seeking this special experience and has
11 recognized the rich learning opportunity these internships provide college students; and

12 WHEREAS, through this program, hundreds of Georgia college and university students have
13 worked as assistants to legislative members and committees, gaining invaluable insight into
14 how government and policy-making work in the state; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout his career he has been regarded as an outstanding teacher and
16 mentor, and as a result, has been a large part of numerous students' decision to pursue legal
17 and public service careers; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas retired from his teaching responsibilities at Georgia State
19 University in 2003, where an award for the political science department's best pre-law
20 student bears his name; and

1 WHEREAS, he is retiring as director of the Georgia Legislative Internship Program this year
2 and plans to travel extensively with his wife and to continue to run on many trails and
3 pathways around Atlanta; and

4 WHEREAS, he is married to Jeanie Thomas, the mother of two daughters, Katrina and Emily
5 Mather; and he is the father of Eric Thomas, a junior high school teacher and coach with one
6 fine grandson, Ethan Alexander Thomas.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
8 commend Professor Bill Thomas for his outstanding service as director of the Georgia
9 Legislative Intern program and convey to him their respect, appreciation, and best wishes for
10 health and happiness in his retirement.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Professor Bill Thomas.